



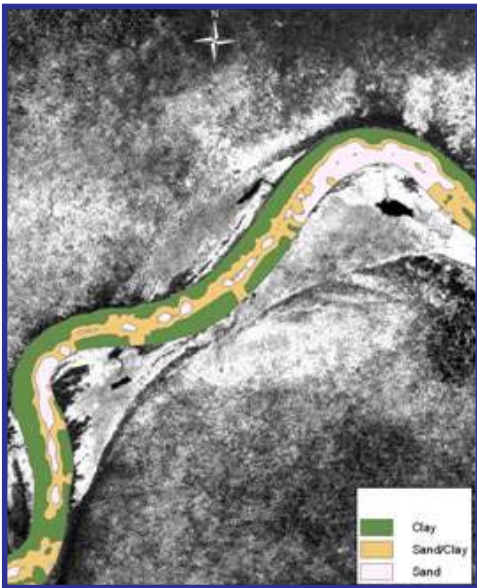
Act projects have supported fish and wildlife habitat restoration.



-Ducks Unlimited

300 acres of coastal wetlands at the St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area in Michigan were restored.

Act projects results have described the status of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.



-USGS

Factors limiting lake sturgeon nursery and spawning habitat in the Bad River were evaluated.



-USFWS

The Act supports native species rehabilitation efforts such as for coaster brook trout in Lake Superior.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2006⁽¹⁹⁹⁸⁻²⁰⁰⁹⁾

Providing Leadership to Conserve, Enhance and Restore Aquatic Ecosystems

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (Act) authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to work in partnership with states, tribes, and other federal agencies “to develop and implement proposals for the restoration of fish and wildlife resources in the Great Lakes Basin and to provide assistance to Great Lakes fish and wildlife agencies to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration and management of the fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.”

Restoration Projects

Originally enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1998 and 2006, the Act authorizes \$14 million annually to implement fish and wildlife restoration projects and Service activities of regional importance.

Fish and wildlife restoration projects are selected through a competitive review process from proposals submitted by states, tribes and other interested entities. A 25% non-federal match is required. To date, more than \$5.6 million in federal funds, matched by over \$3.6 million in non-federal funds, have supported 97 projects during 1998-2009. These projects were selected from a total of 301 project pre-proposals submitted, with accompanying requests of more than \$27.8 million.

Projects have focused on developing ecosystem management tools like the Great Lakes aquatic habitat geographic information system (GIS); restoring wetlands; fish community assessment and modeling; and ecological monitoring. Projects have contributed important information and actions toward meeting Great Lakes restoration needs as identified in the 1995 Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study and priorities of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Committees. Please see <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/glfwra-grants.html> for additional information.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Activities

The 2006 Act authorizes \$2 million annually to support the coordination and technical assistance activities of the Service's Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices, and establishes six goals for Service programs related to Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources:

- 1) Restoring and maintaining self-sustaining fish and wildlife resources.
- 2) Minimizing the impacts of contaminants on fishery and wildlife resources.
- 3) Protecting, maintaining, and, where degraded and destroyed, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, including the enhancement and creation of wetlands that result in a net gain in the amount of those habitats.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act



-Institute for Fisheries Research, Univ. of MI.
Act projects have supported development of fish and wildlife management tools such as the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat GIS:
(<http://www.glfc.org/glgis>)



-University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
A new tool to stop the spread of invasive species by removing oxygen from ship ballast was evaluated with support from the Act.



-Marc Gaden
Projects funded by the Act benefit Great Lakes fish and wildlife, their habitat and the people who enjoy and depend on them.

- 4) Stopping illegal activities adversely impacting fishery and wildlife resources.
- 5) Restoring threatened and endangered species to viable, self-sustaining levels.
- 6) Protecting, managing, and conserving migratory birds.

These goals tie activities authorized under the Act together with Service resource management programs authorized and funded through many other laws, treaties, agreements, codes and guiding documents.

Building Partnerships

Funds provided through the Act have increased partnership development among state, tribal, federal and provincial management agencies for cooperative conservation, enhancement and restoration of Great Lakes fish and wildlife and their habitats. During 1998-2009, projects were implemented in collaboration with more than 60 partner organizations that provided funds, in-kind contributions and expertise. Interagency partnerships continue to grow and become more effective each year, as additional stakeholders join in Act supported activities.

Looking to the Future

Most of the 97 projects funded during the first 11 years of this restoration grants program focused on information needs related to the status of fish and wildlife populations and their habitat, conditions impeding restoration, and development of joint geographic information systems and interagency databases.

Future work via the Act will continue to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats and address impacts associated with climate change, population growth, demand for water, pollution and contamination, habitat alteration and destruction, fish and wildlife diseases, and invasive species.

The Act provides powerful and effective tools for agencies and organizations to address future challenges together. It will play an important role in implementing the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration "Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes" and in addressing the Council of Great Lakes Governors' priorities. Continuing investment in the Act as an interagency strategy will yield direct benefits to Great Lakes fish and wildlife resources and their habitats and to the 35 million people living within this unique region.

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